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(54) Abstract Title  
**Data transfer via a cache under control of an independent message network**

(57) A system interface includes a plurality of first directors 180, a plurality of second directors 200, a data transfer section 240 and a message network 260. The data transfer section includes a cache memory 220 which is coupled to the directors 180, 200. The messaging network 260 operates independently of the data transfer section and is also coupled to the first and second directors 180, 200. Data transfer between the first directors and the second directors is controlled in response to messages passing between the first directors and the second directors through the messaging network 260 and the data passes through the cache memory 220 in the data transfer section.

The first and second directors may be coupled respectively to computer/server 120 and a bank of disc drives 140.

